**Request Reference: 18190352**

**Date received: 30 May 2018**

**Date response sent: 12 July 2018**

**1. How many museums does your council run?**

One museum – Torre Abbey

**2. How many items are there in your museums’ collections? What is their combined value?**

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| --- | --- |
| Museum object/artifact collection | 4040 |
| Museum Archeological collection | approximately 5000 |
| Museum long term loans | 68 |
| Museum related non accessioned collections (heritage fixtures, handling collections, etc) | 91 |
| Other authority exhibits | approx 373 |

Net value as at 31 March 2018

£10,661,582.00

**3. How many of those items are currently on display? What is their combined value?**

928

Display Net value as at 31 March 2018

Not presently indexed; approximately 7,750,000.00 – 8,000,000.00

**4. For each of the last four financial years, ending with 2017/18:**

**4a. How many items have been sold by your museums? What is the sum of money those sales have raised?**

No items have been sold from the museum’s collections in the last 4 years. However, in 2014/15 £395.00 and in 2016/17 £279.54 was raised through the sale by auction of a backlog of relatively modern furnishings which did not meet the acquisitions conditions.

**4b. How much of that money was kept within museums rather than going to other parts of the council?**

Funds received from the sale of items within or related to the collection are used to offset curatorial activities such as conservation and interpretation.

**4c. How many items have been bought by your museums? How much, in total, was paid for them?**

0

Torre Abbey has not purchased any objects for its collections in the last four years. There have been new acquisitions however these have been purchased, bequeathed, donated or transferred by individuals, charities and partnered organizations. Such acquisitions only occurring when aligning with the acquisitions and disposals policy.

**5. Over the last four years, what is the single biggest amount raised by selling an item? What was the item in question? How and to whom was it sold?**

Two jeweled porcelain boxes with covers, early 20th century, £200.00 (Commission & Vat £14.40)

Sold via public auction at Bearnes Hampton & Littlewoods, Exeter. The buyers details are withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as this is personal information as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.

**6. Even if no sales have been made, has the council considered selling any of its collection at any point over the last four years?**

The question has been raised at formal steering meetings which is made up of representatives of the partnered charities, the mayor, relevant councilors and senior managers of Torbay council.

The collections are in the care of Torbay Council, items are only sold as a last resort. Almost the entirety of the collection has been acquired through donation and bequest since the 1930’s.

The museum would be acting against its ethical responsibilities and current policy, losing support and benefits from the museum association and arts council England amongst others, if they were to carryout unauthorized financially motivated disposal. In most cases following ethical practice items of any value would be transferred to another museum or public body rather than be permitted for sale.

Purchasers would be limited as the entire collections bar 15 items are subject to UK export licenses. As such would likely limit buyers to the UK.